

By: Senator(s) Suber

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and  
Parks

SENATE BILL NO. 2652

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE ALL PERSONS 16 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER TO  
2 PROCURE A WILD TURKEY STAMP BEFORE HUNTING WILD TURKEYS IN THE  
3 STATE OF MISSISSIPPI; TO ESTABLISH THE FEE AND PROVIDE FOR THE  
4 FURNISHING OF THE STAMP; TO SET PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS; TO  
5 PROVIDE THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH FUNDS RAISED FROM THE SALE OF  
6 STAMPS MAY BE EXPENDED; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

8 **SECTION 1.** (1) For the purposes of this section, the  
9 following words and phrases shall have the meanings ascribed  
10 herein unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

11 (a) "Wild turkey" means the game bird *Meleagris*  
12 *gallopavo*.

13 (b) "Stamp" means the state wild turkey stamp, either  
14 in its physical or electronic form, furnished by the commission.  
15 A stamp is a specialized permit required for hunting wild turkeys,  
16 with proceeds directly dispersed into the conservation,  
17 management, protection or scientific research of wild turkeys.

18 (c) "Harvest tag" means the physical or electronic tool  
19 used to serve as an inventory of the annual bag limit allotted to  
20 individual wild turkey hunters. Harvest tags are invalidated upon



21 the harvest of a wild turkey. Physical tags may be required to be  
22 attached to the wild turkey following harvest.

23 (d) "Nongovernmental entity" means a nonprofit  
24 organization primarily concerned with the protection and  
25 conservation of land and natural resources, as evidenced by its  
26 organizational documents.

27 (2) It shall be unlawful for any person sixteen (16) years  
28 of age or older to hunt or take wild turkeys during any open wild  
29 turkey season in the State of Mississippi without first having  
30 procured a stamp. The electronic stamp on file with the  
31 commission shall serve as proof of procurement.

32 (3) The fee to resident hunters for each stamp shall be Ten  
33 Dollars (\$10.00). The commission shall set the fee for  
34 nonresident wild turkey hunters as provided in Section 49-7-8.  
35 Each stamp shall be valid through the final day of the spring wild  
36 turkey season following its purchase. After its expiration,  
37 another stamp must be procured in order to hunt or take wild  
38 turkeys in a future open wild turkey season.

39 (4) The commission may make the procurement of harvest tags  
40 dependent upon the purchase of a stamp.

41 (5) The commission shall determine the form of the stamp.  
42 The commission shall furnish physical stamps to bonded agents for  
43 issuance or sale in the same manner as other types of licenses or  
44 shall cause the electronic stamp to accrue to the purchaser's  
45 benefit when purchased from an automated point-of-sale source.



46 (6) Any person violating any of the provisions of this  
47 section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction,  
48 shall be fined not less than Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) nor more  
49 than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) as prescribed in Section  
50 49-7-101.

51 (7) All revenue from the proceeds of stamps shall only be  
52 used and expended for the following objectives:

53 (a) Paying administrative or processing costs  
54 associated with a physical or electronic harvest tag program, or  
55 any other program governing or regulating the harvest of wild  
56 turkeys;

57 (b) Restoring, enhancing or protecting wild turkey  
58 populations or their habitats on public or private lands in  
59 Mississippi as prescribed by the department;

60 (c) Funding scientific research, as conducted by  
61 qualified professionals, into the ecology or management of wild  
62 turkeys, their habitats or their predators; and

63 (d) Increasing access to publicly available turkey  
64 hunting opportunities.

65 (8) Proceeds from stamps may be used as matching funds or  
66 fiscal leverage to secure grants or other financial awards are  
67 deemed to align with the objectives in subsection (7) of this  
68 section.



69           (9) The commission may enter into agreements with other  
70 state, federal or nongovernmental entities to execute the  
71 objectives in subsection (7) of this section.

72           **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this act shall be codified as a new  
73 section in Title 49, Chapter 7, Mississippi Code of 1972.

74           **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
75 and after July 1, 2024.

